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EO 12958 DECL: 01/12/2020

TAGS IR, MARR, MASS, MOPS, SA, YM

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA: GENERAL JONES' JANUARY 12, 2010

MEETING WITH PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN NAIF, ASSISTANT MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Smith for reasons 1.4 (b, d)

SUMMARY

¶1. (S) Summary: During a 30-minute meeting with Prince Mohammed, General Jones reviewed U.S. and Saudi efforts to combat Al-Qaida extremists i  
WE MUST KEEP AL-QAIDA ON THE RUN

¶2. (S) General Jones noted that the attempted bombing of a U.S. aircraft on December 25 is another reminder that we are passing through diffic

¶3. (S) Prince Mohammed responded that we are likely to see many more attempts like the December 25 incident. He also noted that the Saudi expe

¶4. (S/NF) In this light, the recent attack against Al-Qaida in Yemen "was very positive." Prince Mohammed noted that the Saudis have been moni  
SAUDI CONCERNs ON YEMEN

¶5. (S) Prince Mohammed said that the Saudi government has been watching with great concern Al-Qaida's growth in Yemen over the last five years

¶6. (C) One of Al-Qaida's objectives in its confrontation with Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed explained is "to control Mecca and Medina." He sai

¶7. (C) Prince Mohammed also noted that Saudi Arabia has been making an effort to seal the Saudi-Yemen border, noting that "we have been arrest  
that," he went on, since many may be crossing the border only to get a meal. Prince Mohammed pointed out that a key feature of the Saudi approa

Afghanistan/Pakistan

¶8. (C) General Jones noted that the Obama administration's approach in Pakistan and Afghanistan reflects many of the same lessons that the Sau

¶9. (C) Prince Mohammed commented that "Pakistan must let people know that it is fighting a war to keep Pakistan united and its people safe." E

¶10. (C) General Jones assured Prince Mohammed that the U.S. is working to reduce Pakistani-Indian tensions, and emphasized that what is most r

Next Phase with Iran

¶10. (C) General Jones described the administration's current thinking on Iran, noting that Iran has failed to enter into a serious dialogue wi

High Marks for U.S.-Saudi Counterterrorism Cooperation

¶11. (C) General Jones asked Prince Mohammed if there was anything needed from the U.S. to improve our counterterrorism coordination. Prince Mc  
important role in bringing about this strong security relationship, and conveyed President Obama's appreciation for this strong partnership.

Comment

¶12. (S) We note that Prince Mohammed did not raise the matter of recently introduced heightened screening procedures on Saudi citizens. While